(b) whether this has resulted into the closure of several downstream units in that State; and

(c) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD): (a) NALCO has no downstream unit of its own. NALCO is setting up a 50,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) rolled product facility at Angul which is not yet commissioned.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal to close down offices of GSI

3048. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending to close down the offices of Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether Geological Survey of India is engaged in the study of recent continuous tremors/earthquakes in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) which has been set up by the Government to review the Functions, Activities and Structure of the Ministries/Departments, while recommending 45 per cent cut in the present sanctioned strength of 16310 in the Geological Survey of India has advised the Government to review continuation of GSI establishments at Shillong, Ita Nagar, Guwahati, Gangtok (Sikkim), Samchi (Bhutan), Patna (Bihar), Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangalore, Vishakhapatnam, Cochin, Jammu, Srinagar and Dehradun (total 14). In order to take a view on ERC's recommendations, a High Powered Committee is proposed to be set up.

(c) and (d) Kerala falls in the seismic Zone III in seismic zonation map of India. Historically, the region has experienced as many as 23 earthquakes/ tremors of magnitude ranging upto 5.1 in Richter scale in the last century. GSI carries out micro-seismic surveys (damage inventory survey) for defining the

iso-seismals in the area. It has established Micro-Earthquake (MEQ) Stations network in the third week of December, 2000, as part of after shock study to monitor the seismic activity in the region. Macroseismic studies carried out in a area of over 10,000 square kilometer area revealed that iso-seismal pattern is elliptical with its trend in NNW-SSE direction. A significant lineament sympathetic with fundamental fracture *viz.*, Ottapalam-Kuttampuzha fault and Perumbavur-Muvathupuzha-Pala fault/lineament traverse the area. It is assessed that minor tectonic adjustment due to the release of stresses built-up along these lineaments lead to such low order seismicity in the region occasionally.

Enquiry Committee report on ash pond disaster of NALCO

3049. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Enquiry Committee has submitted its report regarding NALCO ash pond breach;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, reasons for delay in submission of the Report; and

(d) by when the Report of Technical Enquiry Committee is likely to be placed before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee constituted by Government of India to enquire into breach of NALCO's ash pond has submitted its report.

(b) The Committee has concluded that the construction of embankment had been of good quality and the practice adopted for design, construction etc. for the raising of ash dykes have been methodical and professional. The Committee has recommended strengthening NALCO's system of continuous maintenance, inspection procedure of ash pond and Research and Development efforts to find long term solution for ash utilization and disposal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since this was a routine internal enquiry report, on which action has been taken, it is not proposed to be placed before Parliament.